

P a t e n t C l a i m s :

1. A method of cleaning screen printing frames, wherein
5 the frame is contacted with a cleaning liquid which is
capable of dissolving or washing out ink residues present
in and/or on the screen fabric, and wherein cleaning
liquid present in the screen fabric after dissolution of
the ink residues is removed, c h a r a c t e r i z e d
10 in that the removal of the cleaning liquid takes place by
entraining it in a gas flow, and then the entrained
liquid is preferably separated from the gas flow.
2. A method according to claim 1, c h a r a c t e r -
15 i z e d in that the maximum rate of the gas flow is in
the range 5-60 m/s, preferably 10-45 m/s, in particular
15-30 m/s.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, c h a r a c -
20 t e r i z e d in that the removal of the cleaning liquid
takes place by suction under vacuum by means of a suction
nozzle which is moved across the screen fabric.
4. A method according to claim 3, c h a r a c t e r -
25 i z e d in that the cleaning liquid, having been sucked
off from the screen fabric, is passed to a separation
zone where the cleaning liquid is separated and col-
lected.
- 30 5. A method according to claim 3 or 4, c h a r a c -
t e r i z e d in that the vacuum used for sucking off
the cleaning liquid is supplied by a compressed-air
driven dust/liquid suction device.
- 35 6. A method according to claims 3-5, c h a r a c t e r -

i z e d in that the vacuum used for sucking off the cleaning liquid corresponds to a negative pressure in relation to atmospheric pressure of 20-300 mbars, preferably 100-200 mbars.

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7. A method according to claims 3-6, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the suction nozzle is shaped such that the nozzle opening is essentially rectangular.

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8. A method according to claim 7, c h a r a c t e r - i z e d in that the length to width ratio of the nozzle opening is greater than 5:1, preferably greater than 10:1, in particular greater than 20:1.

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